Impact of private sector investment

†3054. SHRI LALIT KISHORE CHATURVEDI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that due to direct investment by private investors they have procured wheat at a large scale so the same could not be purchased adequately on support price this year;

(b) whether due to this private investment system market price of wheat has gone up by 20 per cent and benefit of this price-rise is directly going to the private investors; and

(c) whether Government propose to take any step to cheek it?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE-(SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) The low procurement of wheat by Government agencies in Rabi Marketing Season 2006-07 is because of negative market sentiments due to low stocks of wheat in the Central Pool, high open market prices, lower than targeted production, lesser market arrivals and more participation by private traders. Private companies reported to have procured about 15 lakh tonnes of wheat during the Rabi Marketing Season, 2006-07. This Is just 2.16% of the production of wheat in crop year 2005-06.

(b) Reasons for rise in prices are short fall in domestic supply relative to demand and hardening of international prices. Farmers have been benefited by rise in market prices of wheat and also announcement of bonus of Rs. 50.00 per quintal by the Government in addition to Minimum Support Price.

(c) To contain the prices of wheat, Government has already decided to import 39 lakh tonnes of wheat for the Central Pool. Import of wheat at a reduced duty of 5% has also been allowed under Open Ganeral Licence.

Average Income of farmers

†3055. PROF. ALKA BALRAM KSHATRIYA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are not having any record of average income of farmers;

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† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(b) if so, the reaction of Government thereupon; and

(c) the data being used to review the farmer welfare work so that it could be used in review-work of improving the condition of farmers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) As per the 'Situation Assessment Survey of Farmers' conducted by National Sample Survey Organisation in its 59th round survey in 2003, the average monthly income (excluding rent, interest, dividend etc.) of farmer households ranged from Rs. 1 ,062.00 in the State of Orissa to Rs. 5,488.00 in the State of Jammu and Kashmir during the agriculture year 2002-03. The all India average monthly income of farmer households worked out to Rs. 2,115.00 during the same period. A statement showing the state-wise average monthly income of the farmer households is annexed as per statement (See below).

(b) and (c) The steps taken by the Government for making agriculture sector more vibrant and dynamic so as to increase it production and productivity with resultant increase in income of farmers include (i) ensuring the timely availability of quality inputs; (ii) promoting farmer friendly, demand driven agriculture extension system; (iii) accelerating diversification to high value crops including horticultre; (iv) enhancing institutional credit flow to farmers and strengthening of cooperative credit structure; (v) strengthening infrastructure and support chain; and (vi) reforming agricultural markets, and widespread use of post harvest technology.

Further, to ensure that the farmers get remunerative prices, Government has been announcing Minimum Support Price (MSP) for important crops. The Government also implements Market Intervention Scheme (MIS) for agricultural commodities that are not covered under MSP. In order to provide insurance cover and financial support to the farmers in the event of failure of crops as a result of natural calamities like natural fire, lightening, storms, cyclone, flood, draught, pests and diseases, Government is implementing 'National Agricultural Insurance Scheme'.

Statement

Average monthly income of farmers households as per 59th round survey of National Sample Survey Organisation

State	Average monthly Income from all sources per farmer house hold* (In Rs.)
1	2
Andhra Pradesh	1634
Assam	3161
Bihar	1810
Chhattisgarh	1618
Gujarat	2684
Haryana	2882
Jammu & Kashmir	5488
Jharkhand	2069
Karnataka	2616
Kerala	4004
Madhya Pradesh	1430
Maharashtra	2463
Orissa	1062
Punjab	4960
Rajasthan	1498
Tamil Nadu	2072
Uttar Pradesh	1633
West Bengal	2079
All India	2115

*Excluding rent, interest and dividend